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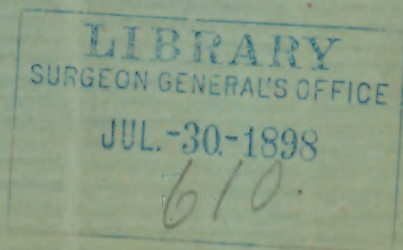
# INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

What Constitutes a Homeopathic Physician.

Opening of Fourth Annual Course of Lectures, College of  
Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery,  
University of Minnesota.

OCTOBER 6, 1891.

PROF. WM. E. LEONARD, M. D.





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# Inaugural Address.

## What Constitutes a Homeopathic Physician.

Delivered Oct. 6, 1891, by Prof. Wm. E. Leonard, M. D.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: We have come together here to-night to inaugurate the fourth annual session of the College of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery of the University of Minnesota.

We meet as the faculty, students, practitioners, and the friends of homeopathy, to properly commence an eight months' course of study, as a part of, and under the patronage of, a great state institution, than which not more than ten in America have more students in all departments, than which none are better equipped for thorough work.

In our brief career as a University College, we have gained faster in proportion than any of its various colleges, both in the number of students and in clinical advantages. In number of students in the four years we have increased from eight to fifteen last year and twenty-six this. In the four years since the establishment of the University Homeopathic Free Dispensary, from which is gained much of the material for clinical instruction, about 4,000 patients have been treated and over 16,000 prescriptions made, while in the year ending May 1, 1891, the average has been five new patients each day.

At this rate of increase, with the strong impetus towards medical education so noticeable throughout our branch of the profession, we may confidently expect that the classes of homeopathy will fill the rooms to be allotted them in the new medical building just commenced upon the university campus.

We as a faculty welcome you as students who are not afraid to stand for a principle in a student body where necessarily some prejudice attaches to the minority. You will receive nothing but fairness and courtesy from the entire faculty, nor will the university authorities permit any display of partisan-



ship. We expect, as Old England always has of her soldiers and sailors, "Every man to do his duty." The greater your diligence, the greater your proficiency, the better your scholarship, the greater credit will you do yourselves and the college in which you have matriculated. Such rivalry is healthful anywhere, and your success as students is the best possible antidote to the calumny of ignorance once so common against those of our school.

Since the organization of the intercollegiate committee in our national society, the American Institute of Homeopathy, in 1874, when eight colleges were represented, as contrasted with sixteen now, we may truthfully say that the homeopathic standards of medical education have been decidedly high. The action of this intercollegiate committee at their session in June, 1891, and of the several western state boards of health and examining boards, in demanding a four years' course, as a necessary qualification to practice, has resulted in making the course at this university one of four years—one year at present consisting of preparatory study. Our Boston University School of Medicine is the *first* American college to announce and live up to, beginning this fall, a *full four years' graded course* of instruction, in this going even one step farther than its ancient and revered neighbor, Harvard University.

It is inspiring to reflect that in any movement towards progress, at any period in history, *minorities win in the long run*. Listen to a few of the abounding illustrations of this fact. The persecuted Christian sect of Nero's time grew numerous enough in a little less than three centuries to convert Emperor Constantine, and through him the empire, to their belief. Centuries later, when the church thus founded became too imperious and corrupt, the fires of the Reformation were lighted, and have dissipated the dense darkness of the middle ages, until we now enjoy the glorious light of modern civilization. In politics, the spread of the republican idea is an excellent example of the growth of a thing originally unpopular. Read the dire prophesies of the fate of these rash colonies of America, hurled over the Atlantic only one hundred years ago, and now see almost this entire hemisphere, even

pown to Patagonia, a group of republics, and two of the same governments firmly established in Europe itself.

The civilized world, and especially this generation, recognizes how essential to the advancement of society are those fearless men who stand for what they believe to be the truth. Reformers—"cranks," popularly so-called—in religion, politics, social science, medicine—to which class we happily belong—exist everywhere, and while some people laugh at them and conservatism ridicules them, there never was a time when they had more influence or received more attention than now.

Therefore you need have no hesitancy about being heterodox in medicine. Each year emphasizes the fact, in this stirring age, that protestants succeed in their protesting, and that it is no disgrace to depart from the beaten paths in any line of research, provided the thing sought for is *the truth*.

In America during the past thirty years, the therapeutic methods and dosage of all schools more nearly approach the homeopathic standards, because the more intelligent people will not be made to swallow the immense nauseous doses of a generation ago. Among the papers read before the American Pedriatic Society in June 1890, was one by Dr. Chas. W. Earle of Chicago entitled "Simple but Efficient Medication in Pedriatics," (Archives of Pedriatics, January 1891) from which I quote these startling sentences:—"We can avoid prescribing large mixtures, can stop giving teaspoonful doses, and in many instances give tinctures in water. \* \* It is best for the young physician to carry the drug and measure out enough at each visit for the coming twenty-four hours. \* \* Nothing makes the people appreciate the expensiveness of a doctor so much as, at the end of two week's sickness, having a table full of bottles partially emptied." In the discussion of this paper one physician made this remarkable statement: "We are not likely to reach accurate knowledge in therapeutics until we use drugs singly!" Hahnemann reached these conclusions and deduced these rules of practice some eighty years ago. In spite of these straws showing the way the currents run, our mission as a separate school is by no means yet ended. In the main, the old school imitation of homeopathy is still crude and empirical, according to its, (the Old School's) ancient traditions.



So much by way of introduction. As affording you something to carry away from this evening as food for thought during the months we shall study together as faculty and students, I will briefly outline for you *what*, to my mind *constitutes the homeopathic physician*, in the best sense of the word.

In the first place, the homeopathic physician is not, as many of his old school brethren in recent journals delight to call him, a "Hahnemanic." (Small 'h'). The term is justly applied to a few extremists in our ranks who are hero-worshippers, and appreciate nothing in medicine except Hahnemann and his writings. But to the great majority of the school, men thoroughly educated and notably successful, the term is one of unnecessary reproach. Yet the homeopathic physician cannot deny being a sectarian and schismatic in medicine. Nor is he to blame for this fact, since it was forced upon him by the attitude of a large portion of the medical profession towards the founder of his school, Samuel Hahnemann, and towards all his disciples since. Schools of doctrine and of practice had existed in medicine from the times of Galen, and exist to-day, in spite of statements to the contrary. Indeed each great school of medicine in Europe before Hahnemann's time, and some of the lesser ones fortunate enough to possess an original genius upon their faculties, were centers of peculiar systems of empiricism. The history of medicine abounds in schools. Students of medicine before this century evidently worshipped more blindly, and thought less for themselves, than they do now-a-days. Yet Hahnemann was perhaps the most bitterly persecuted of all, because his homeopathic system was too radical, and involved the destruction of the ancient methods by which both numerous honest apothecaries, and less numerous but more boastful medical men earned, earned their livelihoods.

You cannot be true homeopathic physicians without knowing somewhat of Hahnemann's struggles and triumphs. I will briefly outline these:

Hahnemann was born of the traditional "poor but honest parents," being the eldest of ten children, at the little German town of Meissen in Saxony on April 10th. 1755. Friends who recognized the genius of the lad found a place for him

in the royal school of the town, instead of allowing him to learn his father's trade, that of painting upon porcelain. At twelve years he was set to teach the elements of Greek to his young schoolmates. At twenty years young Hahnemann was sent to Leipzig, his father furnishing him 20 thalers (nearly \$15.00) with which to gain a college education. Through much adversity, he worked his four years, earning his living by teaching French and German, and making translations—which latter work often occupied his whole nights. If a brilliant example of a faithful, hard-working student is sought for, his modern disciples need not look elsewhere than the founder of the school. On August 10th, 1779, at twenty-four years of age, he became a doctor of medicine. Because of his merit as a student, he was favored in Vienna by Quarin, the Emperor Joseph's physician-in-ordinary, as being the only one Quarin would take to see his private patients, and, was later (1783) placed in charge of the town hospital at Dresden. Steadily his reputation as an extraordinary industrious, learned and skillful physician grew, together with his practice, until after publishing his "Organon of the Healing Art" in 1810, (that date should be remembered) he located in Leipzig in order to qualify himself at the University to give lectures upon his new system. Here Hahnemann and his pupils zealously engaged in proving medicines upon their own persons, and in active practice. The success of the latter excited the envy of the doctors, and the fact that he dispensed his own medicines incensed the apothecaries, and these combined drove him from the town, as they had already from many smaller towns throughout his native country. Now Leipzig has a beautiful statue of Samuel Hahnemann in its public square, and a homeopathic hospital of 200 beds within its borders. Hahnemann's experience in Leipzig reminds one of the poets lines:

"Seven cities warred for Homer being dead,  
Who living, had no roof to shroud his head."

For several years he found a place of refuge at the petty court of Coethen. After his wife's death in 1830, his second marriage to a French lady of cultivation and rank brought him to Paris in 1835, where he lived as a vigorous old man in the enjoyment of a marvelous practice and a world-wide



reputation for wonderful cures. He died in Paris on June 4th, 1844, being 88 years of age, not from the effects of tobacco and old age, (as is recently stated in a journal of the drug trade) but after six weeks illness with bronchitis.

Besides his immortal service to medicine in the enunciation of the law of cure, Hahnemann was noted among his contemporaries a skilled chemist, a most accomplished linguist (his preface to the *Organon* involves a knowledge of the language of all civilized peoples, and he even read Chaldaic,) and a scholar well-versed in the astronomy, geography, philology, etc., of his day.

Although this brief sketch of the founder of Homeopathy shows him to have been a giant among men, you must not conclude that the homeopathic physician of to-day is necessarily a blind follower of Hahnemann, or that no medical truths have been discovered since his day. Hahnemann himself credited the ancient Hippocrates, called "The Father of Physic and Prince of Physicians," who lived in the fifth century before Christ, with first appreciating the law of similars, and plainly shows in the preface of the *Organon* that many physicians since that early date, even down to his own cotemporary, Stahl the Dane, saw glimmerings of its importance in therapeutics. Granting that Hippocrates was the first homeopathist, how will our Old School brethren account for their violent opposition to an idea born of one of the most revered fathers of medicine?

At the late International Homeopathic Congress in Atlantic City, the name Hippocrates was placed on a great shield in the convention hall besides those of Hahnemann, Hering, Dunham, and the other magic names in the history of Homoeopathy.

Again, the Homeopathic Physician does not believe that the use of drugs is the sum and substance of therapeutics, although drugs are chiefly dwelt upon in our courses of instruction. He knows that Hahnemann and common sense alike teach that sanitary surroundings, the hygiene of dress and diet, and instruction in certain laws of chemistry and physics, may constitute the sole proper treatment of the patient, without any drug whatsoever.



But the Homeopathic Physician does believe thoroughly in the *science of therapeutics*. He swears by the law of "Similia Similibus Curantur," believes in small doses, and in the single remedy, and is therefore as a beacon-light in the gloom of experimentalism around him. He is quietly pursuing his way along these lines, building up a fine literature, and looking forward to the ultimate recognition of his work as a part of scientific medicine. Yet you must become accustomed to, which does not mean that you need humbly acquiesce in the arrogance of the Old School in assuming to themselves all medical science. Hear these sentences from the veteran physician N. S. Davis, of Chicago, who has had all the honors the profession of America could bestow upon him, in a introductory lecture before the Chicago Post Graduate School last February: "What constitutes the basis of scientific medicine, and what methods of investigation are best adapted for its study and more complete development, are questions worthy of most thoughtful consideration. There are still those, both in and out of the profession, who deny that medicine has any scientific character, and who talk and write of old and new "Schools of medicine," consisting of the theoretical dogmas of some dreamers of past generations. But in doing so they only betray the shallowness of their own attainments, and especially their ignorance of the real medicine of to day." Yet, after thus pouring ridicule upon homeopathy, in spite of much sound philosophy and information, his address does not even hint at any basis for the rational use of drugs in disease.

That the Homeopathic Physician is a *thorough diagnostician* should go without saying. This becomes true from the fact that he does not stop with the name of the disease, but necessarily delves deeper into the condition of his patient as a sick individual. In the very process of obtaining the "totality of symptoms," objective and subjective, essential to a right prescription, any errors in diagnosis are sure to be corrected. There is much in the natural history of disease not yet explained by pathology. So in the provings of our *materia medica*, even when carefully sifted into a "Cyclopedia of Drug Pathogenesis," there are many authentic results of drug action not yet susceptible of pathological explanation. Even tho' the

best pathologist in our ranks cannot account for one-third the symptoms of his chronic patients, he should aim to keep up with what explanation pathology thus far affords.

Especially is the Homoeopathic Physician *an out and out optimist in medicine*, and believes confidently in the ultimate triumph of Hahnemann's law of cure. "*Magna est Veritas et prevalebit.*" The history of homeopathy since the Master's death in 1843 has been more glorious by far than that of any school of medicine known to history. In that very year the first American homeopathic physician began practice in New York City. Now, as you should all know, homeopathy numbers about 15000 practitioners, controls 66 hospitals (34 general, 32 special) 16 colleges, 41 dispensaries, 25 Journals, and millions of patrons, in this great republic. Moreover, it has official recognition upon the National Board of Health, in four State Universities, on several State Examining Boards and State Boards of Health.

Even the Old School reluctantly acknowledge our position in this country, yet America our opponents to the contrary notwithstanding does not by any means contain all there is of homeopathy. Let me give you a few items from the reports at the International Homoeopathic Congress last June: In autocratic Russia there are 200 homoeopaths. Much advance is being made there among the nobility (a fact confirmed recently by the British Medical Journal,) new pharmacies and dispensaries are springing up, and Hahnemann's Organ has been translated into the Russian language.

Note the effect of a perfect state medicine upon any advance in therapeutics in Austria and even in free Switzerland, and let Americans take warning. In Austria giving even one dose of his own medicine debars a homeopathist from practice; and in Switzerland, the state dispenses sick funds so liberally by means of Old School physicians that homeopathy has no opportunity to spread among the people. In Mexico homeopathy won its first laurels in the cholera epidemics, and now has a strong state society and a good journal called "*La Reforma Medica.*" In Liverpool, England, a homeopathic hospital has just been established and endowed with one hundred thousand dollars. Melbourne, Australia, has a large homeopathic hospital, and one is soon to be built in Tasma-



nia. In the treatment of Typhoid Fever in Australia, the Old School percentage of loss was thirteen, the homeopathic eight, as learned from the homeopathic journals and the city of Calcutta twenty practitioners of our School. The report says: "The method of Hahnemann has gained entrance into all the nooks and corners of that country."

In Germany, although they are denied army or state positions, there are 600 homeopathists, 50 having in the past five years passed the Prussian examination for dispensing. The younger men in the land of Hahnemann are becoming more and more aggressive. The homeopathic society of Denmark numbers 100. It is evident from these facts alone that homeopathy, the world over, is out of his swaddling clothes and in fact clothing himself in the habiliments of a lusty youth. We of this generation may live to see this triumphant youth grow into a vi, orous and all-conquering manhood.

Finally, the homeopathic physician is thoroughly educated and keeps well informed in all the sciences allied to medicine. Because he believes in a law in therapeutics, in contrast to the therapeutic agnostics around him, he is none the less a good anatomist, a complete physiologist, and conversant with all the light that medical chemistry, histology, pathology, and kindred medical science can shed upon his difficult pathway. Accepting his "Similia" as comprising all that is as yet certain in the use of drugs, he is as free as any legally qualified and competent physician to use whatever else his knowledge brings him in order to accomplish his mission—i. e. healing the sick.

Towards this imperfectly outlined ideal of the homeopathic physician we as a faculty will endeavor to lead you during the course now inaugurated. Remember that we are only human instruments presenting these truths to you, and that ideals can only be realized by earnest, patient, persistent labor.

DR. A. E. FOOTE

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Leonard W. E. M.D.

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